

CLAIMS

1. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein subsequent to said compression said absorbent material has a diameter of less than about 15 mm, said tampon having an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 6 to about 9 grams, said tampon being fluid expanding, and said tampon having an expanded width upon fluid absorption of at least about 20 mm.
2. The absorbent tampon of Claim 1 wherein the difference between said absorbent material diameter and said tampon expanded width is at least about 6 mm.
3. The absorbent tampon of Claim 2 wherein the difference between said absorbent material diameter and said tampon expanded width is at least about 10 mm.
4. The absorbent tampon of Claim 1 wherein said mass of absorbent material is subjected to microwave radiation during formation of said tampon.
5. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein subsequent to said compression said absorbent material has a diameter of less than about 19 mm, said tampon having an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 9 to about 12 grams, said tampon being fluid expanding, and said tampon having an expanded width upon fluid absorption of at least about 24 mm.
6. The absorbent tampon of Claim 5 wherein the difference between said absorbent material diameter and said tampon expanded width is at least about 8 mm.

7. The absorbent tampon of Claim 6 wherein the difference between said absorbent material diameter and said tampon expanded width is at least about 12 mm.
8. The absorbent tampon of Claim 5 wherein said mass of absorbent material is subjected to microwave radiation during formation of said tampon.
9. An absorbent tampon comprising:
- a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein subsequent to said compression said absorbent material has a diameter of less than about 22 mm, said tampon having an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 12 to about 15 grams, said tampon being fluid expanding, and said tampon having an expanded width upon fluid absorption of at least about 27 mm.
10. The absorbent tampon of Claim 9 wherein the difference between said absorbent material diameter and said tampon expanded width is at least about 10 mm.
11. The absorbent tampon of Claim 10 wherein the difference between said absorbent material diameter and said tampon expanded width is at least about 15 mm.
12. The absorbent tampon of Claim 9 wherein said mass of absorbent material is subjected to microwave radiation during formation of said tampon.
13. An absorbent tampon comprising:
- a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein subsequent to said compression said absorbent material has a diameter of less than about 15 mm, said tampon having an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test less than about 6 grams, said tampon being fluid expanding, and said tampon having an expanded width upon fluid absorption of at least about 20mm.
14. The absorbent tampon of Claim 13 wherein said mass of absorbent material is subjected to microwave radiation during formation of said tampon.

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15. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 6 grams and about 9 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until two minutes of at least about 1.25 mm/min.
16. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 6 grams and about 9 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until seven minutes of at least about 0.58 mm/min.
17. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 9 grams and about 12 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until two minutes of at least about 1.6 mm/min.
18. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 9 grams and about 12 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until seven minutes of at least about 0.82 mm/min.
19. An absorbent tampon comprising:
a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent

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capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 12 grams and about 15 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until two minutes of at least 1.39 mm/min.

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An absorbent tampon comprising:

a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein said tampon has an absorbent capacity as measured by the syngyna test of between about 12 grams and about 15 grams, and wherein said demonstrates a rate of expansion as measured by the expansion under pressure test from time zero until seven minutes of at least 0.87 mm/min.

20 An absorbent tampon pledget comprising:

a chevron shaped laminar pad having a width and a length wherein said width is greater than said length, said pad comprising at least three layers of absorbent material, wherein said three layers include an uppermost layer, a lowermost layer, and at least one intermediate layer positioned between said uppermost layer and said lowermost layer, wherein each of said uppermost layer and said lowermost layer is comprised primarily of rayon, and wherein said at least one intermediate layer is comprised primarily of cotton; and

a withdrawal cord attached to said laminar pad, said withdrawal cord comprising a secondary absorbent member joined to said withdrawal cord along at least a portion of its extent.

21. The absorbent tampon pledget of Claim 20 wherein said secondary absorbent member is an integral part of said withdrawal cord at least a long a portion of the extent of said withdrawal cord.

22 An absorbent tampon comprising:

a mass of absorbent material which has been compressed into a generally cylindrical, self-sustaining form, wherein subsequent to said compression said absorbent material has a diameter of less than about 19 mm, said tampon being fluid expanding, and said tampon having an expanded width upon fluid absorption of at least about 30 mm.